

**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors  
**From:** Jennifer van der Valk, *Chief Planning Officer (A)*  
**Date:** November 26, 2020  
**Re:** **Planning, Design and Sponsorship Q3 - 20/21 Report**

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## Recommendation

That this report be received for information.

## Highlights

- **Pickering GO Durham Region On-Demand Pilot:** Through a partnership with Metrolinx and The Regional Municipality of Durham, a new on-demand service is being implemented to make it faster and more convenient for Durham residents to connect to GO Transit and Durham Region Transit (DRT).
  - Metrolinx is providing \$220,000 to support the Pickering GO DRT on-demand service and collect anonymized information from residents on how to optimize the service and better connect the community to jobs and major transit routes to make it faster, easier and more seamless for residents to get where they need to go.
  - The Metrolinx and Durham Region partnership provides supplementary service with existing DRT bus service to provide trips between the Pickering GO station and the service area bounded by Taunton Road, the Ajax-Pickering municipal boundary, Lake Ontario, and the Toronto-Pickering boundary. The aim is to understand whether on-demand service can encourage customers to take transit by improving access to GO rail stations and attract new riders to DRT.
  - The pilot service is booked through the DRT On Demand app or by phone, and customers can book up to 15 minutes before their trip.
  - Over 6000 trips have been booked through the DRT On-Demand system and as part of data collection, ridership data resulting from the Pilot will be isolated.
- **Third-Party Standards Update:** The Third-Party Entrance Connection Design Standard was approved and published in October 2020. Development adjacent to Metrolinx transit stations has generated demand and interest from the development community to provide direct connections to Metrolinx stations. The Standards sets clear and concise design requirements for a consistent, seamless, safe and inclusive customer experience where adjacent developments attach directly to a transit station.
- **Station Access Implementation:** A “quick blitz” application of a suite of station access improvements is underway at five pilot locations (Ajax GO, Aurora GO, Long Branch GO, Mount Pleasant GO & Oakville GO) with a focus on walking, cycling and wayfinding.
  - 100% of the design drawings for the Five Station Blitz projects have been developed and finalized for construction.
  - Stations works are being delivered in phases with the first phase of work expected to be awarded in late Fall 2020. This will include surface works in preparation for new multi-use paths, pedestrian crosswalks and parking lot improvements.

Respectfully submitted.

**Jennifer van der Valk**  
*Chief Planning Officer (A)*